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EXAMINER

ALBERTALLI, BRIAN LOUIS

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/783,832	Applicant(s) STOOPS ET AL.	
	Examiner BRIAN L. ALBERTALLI	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 101 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Specifically, Applicant's arguments make clear that the claimed signal processor and communication system are implemented by a signal processing unit. The signal processing unit, as described in the specification, is not itself software, but is rather a device that utilizes software. Since claims 1-15 are directed to statutory hardware embodiments, the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 101 are withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 101, Applicant's amendments to the claims overcome the rejections made in the previous Office Action. Claims 16-18 now recite the acts of processing a signal in first processing hardware and accessing an entry point in second processing hardware that tie the method claims to another statutory category.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. 101, however, are not persuasive. Applicant has argued that since the signal processing device recited in claim 25 is a hardware signal processor, the claims are tied to another statutory category. However, to qualify as a statutory process the *acts of the process* must explicitly or inherently be performed by a machine. In this case, the single act of "providing" a signal processing device could encompass a person simply handing a signal processing device to another person. This clearly does not meet the "tied-to" requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101. That is, a particular machine or apparatus is not required

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for the step of “providing”, thus the claim is not properly tied to another statutory category.

2. Regarding Applicant’s arguments with respect to the prior art rejections, Applicant’s arguments are not persuasive. Independent claims 1, 5, and 25 recite accessing an entry point of one of a plurality of application by navigating through the levels of a menu hierarchy of the plurality of applications. Applicant argues that Neuberger allow a user to preemptively respond to a subsequent prompt of a single application and do not allow a user to access other application from within a single application. However, navigating to a second application from a first application is in no way required *by the language of the claims*.

Rather, claims 1, 5, and 25 require a composite grammar including multiple levels of a menu hierarchy for a plurality of applications. Neuberger clearly teaches such a grammar at Fig. 4, where a plurality of applications (messages, settings, greetings, etc.) and their respective grammars are included. Furthermore, from the main menu, a user can say, e.g. “settings, passcode” or “greeting, record”, and thereby access any of a plurality of applications (see paragraph 0029). Thus, the system allows a user to access the respective applications at an entry point by navigating through the levels of a menu hierarchy of the plurality of applications.

Therefore, claims 1, 5, and 25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Neuberger.

Claims 16, 19, and 24, as amended, require accessing an entry point in the plurality of applications directly at a level of a menu hierarchy of one of the applications. Although Neuberger does not recite this feature, Haenal et al. disclose a method/system that rearranges a hierarchical menu into a new hierarchical structure having one layer so the user can access a node in the hierarchy directly. Further, as described under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) below, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Neuberger to access the entry point directly at the level of a menu hierarchy of one of the applications.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 25-27 do not fall within one of the four statutory categories of invention. While the claim(s) recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory "process" under 35 USC 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a manufacture or a machine), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. The instant claim(s) neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively recite structure associated with another statutory category, and therefore do not define a statutory process.

To qualify as a statutory process the *acts of the process* must explicitly or inherently be performed by a machine. In this case, the single act of "providing" a signal processing device could encompass a person simply handing a signal processing device to another person. This clearly does not meet the "tied-to" requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101. That is, a particular machine or apparatus is not required for the step of "providing", thus the claims are not properly tied to another statutory category.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Neuberger et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0153322).

In regard to claim 1, Neuberger et al. disclose a signal processor configured to receive a token selected based upon a composite grammar (Fig. 2, remote voice application 40 receives a prompt from a user based on a grammar, paragraph 0025; the grammar comprising a composite grammar of acceptable responses, paragraph 0012), the composite grammar including multiple levels of a menu hierarchy for a plurality of applications (see Fig. 3, the composite grammar includes recognition of all words in the

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hierarchy for each of the applications, i.e. messages, settings, greetings; paragraph 0026), wherein the token corresponds to an entry point for one of a plurality of applications (one or more applications, paragraph 0025; are accessed at an entry point such as entry point 154 of Fig. 3, paragraph 0029), and configured to access the respective application at the entry point by navigating through the levels of a menu hierarchy of the plurality of applications upon receipt of the token (see Fig. 3, by stating, e.g. "greetings, record", or "settings, passcode" the menu hierarchy of any of the plurality of applications included in Fig. 3 is navigated, paragraph 0029).

In regard to claim 3, Neuberger et al. disclose the signal processor is configured to receive a responsive data file from a level of the respective application corresponding to the entry point and configured to transmit the data file to a telephony server (see Fig. 2, a response from the remote voice application 40 is transmitted to IVR 12 for TTS 30 to generate a response for the user, paragraphs 0024, 0025, and 0029).

In regard to claim 4, Neuberger et al. disclose a telephony server (IVR 12) configured to receive a modulated signal correlative to an audio command (IVR 12 receives speech from PSTN 16 and recognizes the speech with recognizer 26, paragraph 0024), to analyze the modulated signal to identify a constituent of a root grammar, to select the token corresponding to the constituent, and to transmit the token to the signal processor (user interface 42 uses the composite grammar to identify a constituent of a root grammar, e.g. "greetings", or "settings", see Fig. 3, and paragraphs 0025 and 0029).

In regard to claim 5, Neuberger et al. disclose a communications system (Fig. 2), comprising:

a telephony server (IVR 12) configured to receive a modulated signal correlative to an audio command (IVR 12 receives speech from PSTN 16, paragraph 0021), to analyze the modulated signal to identify a constituent of a composite grammar (recognizes the speech with recognizer 26, paragraph 0024; the IVR using the composite grammar to interpret prompts from a user, paragraph 0025), the composite grammar comprising inputs corresponding to each of a plurality of applications (one or more applications, paragraph 0025), and to select a token corresponding to the constituent (user interface 42 uses the composite grammar to identify a constituent of the composite grammar, see Fig. 3, and paragraphs 0025 and 0029); and

a browser module configured to acquire the token and to access an entry point for one of a plurality of applications based upon the token by navigating levels of a menu hierarchy of the plurality of applications (see Fig. 3, by stating, e.g. "greetings, record", or "settings, passcode" the menu hierarchy of any of the plurality of applications included in Fig. 3 is navigated, paragraph 0029).

In regard to claim 7, Neuberger et al. disclose the browser module is configured to receive a responsive data file from a level of the respective application corresponding to the entry point and configured to transmit the data file to the telephony server (see

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Fig. 2, a response from the remote voice application 40 is transmitted to IVR 12 for TTS 30 to generate a response for the user, paragraphs 0024, 0025, and 0029).

In regard to claim 8, Neuberger et al. disclose the responsive data file comprises at least one of an audio file, a text file, a video file, and a multimedia file (the response is supplied to a text-to-speech converter, so the response must inherently include at least a text file, paragraphs 0024, 0025, and 0029).

In regard to claim 11, Neuberger et al. disclose a public switched telephone network configured to transmit the modulated signal to the telephony server (Fig. 2, PSTN 16, paragraph 0021).

In regard to claim 12, Neuberger et al. disclose the composite grammar comprises a VoiceXML grammar (VoiceXML form level grammars, paragraph 0040).

In regard to claim 13, Neuberger et al. disclose the root grammar comprises at least two of a voice mail application grammar (Fig. 3, messages 112), a help application grammar, a conference call application grammar, a news application grammar, a weather application grammar, a financial application grammar, a scheduling application grammar, a mapping application grammar, and a database application grammar (settings 114, see paragraph 0026).

In regard to claim 14, Neuberger et al. disclose a unified interface server configured to generate at least one root grammar included within the composite grammar (a grammar analyzer in user interface 42 creates a multi-level grammar, including main menu choices such as messages, settings, and greetings, paragraphs 0025 and 0026 and Fig. 3).

In regard to claim 15, Neuberger et al. disclose the unified interface server is further configured to generate one or more main menu applications associated with the plurality of applications (a grammar analyzer in user interface 42 creates a multi-level grammar, including main menu choices such as messages, settings, and greetings, paragraphs 0025 and 0026 and Fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neuberger et al., in view of Haenel et al. (U.S. Patent 7,401,024).

In regard to claim 16, Neuberger et al. disclose a method for accessing an application, the method comprising the acts of:

processing a signal in first processing hardware to identify an audio code as a constituent of a composite grammar (Fig. 2, remote voice application 40 receives a prompt from a user based on a grammar, paragraph 0025; the grammar comprising a composite grammar of acceptable responses, paragraph 0012), the composite grammar comprising constituents from a plurality of applications (one or more applications, paragraph 0025); and

accessing an entry point in second processing hardware of one of the plurality of applications based upon the constituent of the composite grammar, wherein the entry point is accessed directly by navigating a menu hierarchy of one of the plurality of applications (see Fig. 3, by stating, e.g. "greetings, record", or "settings, passcode" the menu hierarchy of any of the plurality of applications included in Fig. 3 is navigated, paragraph 0029).

Neuberger et al. navigate the menu hierarchy to access the entry point of the application, and thus do not disclose the entry point is accessed directly at a level of a menu hierarchy.

Haenel et al. disclose a method for accessing the entry point of an application directly at the level of the menu hierarchy (a menu hierarchy is "flattened" into a single layer so that a particular node, i.e. entry point, can be directly accessed, column 4, lines 23-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Neuberger to access the entry point of the application directly, rather than navigating through the menu hierarchy, because this would eliminate the need to

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navigate through a range of non-terminal nodes, as suggested by Haenel et al. (column 4, lines 38-40).

In regard to claim 17, Neuberger et al. disclose sending a data file to a user, wherein the data file is generated in response to accessing the entry point (see Fig. 2, a response from the remote voice application 40 is transmitted to IVR 12 for TTS 30 to generate a response for the user, paragraphs 0024, 0025, and 0029).

In regard to claim 18, Neuberger et al. disclose accessing the entry point comprises transmitting an indicator to the respective application that the audio code was identified in the processed signal (user interface 42 interprets input for IVR applications 40, paragraph 0025, by identifying the states used in the application, paragraph 0030 and 0031).

In regard to claim 19, Neuberger et al. disclose a tangible computer-readable medium (disk storage storing IVR software, paragraphs 0021 and 0022), comprising:

programming instructions stored on the computer-readable medium for processing a signal to identify an audio code as a constituent of a composite grammar (Fig. 2, remote voice application 40 receives a prompt from a user based on a grammar, paragraph 0025; the grammar comprising a composite grammar of acceptable responses, paragraph 0012), the composite grammar comprising constituents from a plurality of applications (one or more applications, paragraph 0025); and

programming instructions stored on the computer-readable medium for accessing an entry point of one of the plurality of applications based upon the constituent of the composite grammar, wherein the entry point is accessed directly by navigating a menu hierarchy of the one of the plurality of applications (see Fig. 3, by stating, e.g. "greetings, record", or "settings, passcode" the menu hierarchy of any of the plurality of applications included in Fig. 3 is navigated, paragraph 0029).

Neuberger et al. navigate the menu hierarchy to access the entry point of the application, and thus do not disclose the entry point is accessed directly at a level of a menu hierarchy.

Haenel et al. disclose a method for accessing the entry point of an application directly at the level of the menu hierarchy (a menu hierarchy is "flattened" into a single layer so that a particular node, i.e. entry point, can be directly accessed, column 4, lines 23-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Neuberger to access the entry point of the application directly, rather than navigating through the menu hierarchy, because this would eliminate the need to navigate through a range of non-terminal nodes, as suggested by Haenel et al. (column 4, lines 38-40).

In regard to claim 20, Neuberger et al. disclose programming instructions stored on the computer-readable medium for receiving a data file from the entry point in response to accessing the entry point (see Fig. 2, a response from the remote voice

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application 40 is transmitted to IVR 12 for TTS 30 to generate a response for the user, paragraphs 0024, 0025, and 0029).

In regard to claim 21, Neuberger et al. disclose programming instructions stored on the computer-readable medium for sending the data file to a telephony server (see Fig. 2, a response from the remote voice application 40 is transmitted to IVR 12 for TTS 30 to generate a response for the user, paragraphs 0024, 0025, and 0029).

In regard to claim 22, Neuberger et al. disclose the programming instructions for accessing the entry point transmit a token to the respective application that the audio code was identified (user interface 42 interprets input for IVR applications 40, paragraph 0025, by identifying the states used in the application, paragraph 0030 and 0031).

In regard to claim 23, Neuberger et al. disclose composite grammar comprises a VoiceXML grammar (VoiceXML form level grammars, paragraph 0040).

In regard to claim 24, Neuberger et al. disclose a method for manufacturing a tangible computer medium (the instant claim is a “product-by-process” type claim; Neuberger disclose the product, i.e. a computer readable medium comprising the claimed instructions, thus the process of the instant claim is unpatentable over Neuberger et al.), comprising:

storing programming instructions for identifying an audio code as a constituent of a composite grammar on a computer-readable medium (Fig. 2, remote voice application 40 receives a prompt from a user based on a grammar, paragraph 0025; the grammar comprising a composite grammar of acceptable responses, paragraph 0012), wherein the composite grammar comprising constituents from a plurality of applications (one or more applications, paragraph 0025); and

storing programming instructions for accessing an entry point of one of the plurality of applications based upon the constituent of the composite grammar on the computer-readable medium, wherein the entry point is accessed directly by navigating a menu hierarchy of the one of the plurality of applications (see Fig. 3, by stating, e.g. "greetings, record", or "settings, passcode" the menu hierarchy of any of the plurality of applications included in Fig. 3 is navigated, paragraph 0029).

Neuberger et al. navigate the menu hierarchy to access the entry point of the application, and thus do not disclose the entry point is accessed directly at a level of a menu hierarchy.

Haenel et al. disclose a method for accessing the entry point of an application directly at the level of the menu hierarchy (a menu hierarchy is "flattened" into a single layer so that a particular node, i.e. entry point, can be directly accessed, column 4, lines 23-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Neuberger to access the entry point of the application directly, rather than navigating through the menu hierarchy, because this would eliminate the need to

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navigate through a range of non-terminal nodes, as suggested by Haenel et al. (column 4, lines 38-40).

In regard to claim 25, Neuberger et al. disclose a method for manufacturing telephony system (the instant claim is a “product-by-process” type claim; Neuberger disclose the product, i.e. a signal processing device programmed to perform the claimed functions, thus the process of the instant claim is unpatentable over Neuberger et al.), the method comprising the act of:

providing at least one signal processing device programmed to identifying an audio code as a constituent of a composite grammar (Fig. 2, remote voice application 40 receives a prompt from a user based on a grammar, paragraph 0025; the grammar comprising a composite grammar of acceptable responses, paragraph 0012) and programmed to access an entry point of one of the plurality of applications based upon the constituent of the composite grammar, wherein the entry point corresponds to a level of menu hierarchy and is accessed by navigating the menu hierarchy of the plurality of applications (see Fig. 3, by stating, e.g. “greetings, record”, or “settings, passcode” the menu hierarchy of any of the plurality of applications included in Fig. 3 is navigated, paragraph 0029).

Neuberger et al. navigate the menu hierarchy to access the entry point of the application, and thus do not disclose the entry point is accessed directly at a level of a menu hierarchy.

Haenel et al. disclose a method for accessing the entry point of an application directly at the level of the menu hierarchy (a menu hierarchy is "flattened" into a single layer so that a particular node, i.e. entry point, can be directly accessed, column 4, lines 23-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Neuberger to access the entry point of the application directly, rather than navigating through the menu hierarchy, because this would eliminate the need to navigate through a range of non-terminal nodes, as suggested by Haenel et al. (column 4, lines 38-40).

9. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neuberger et al., in view of Busayapongchai et al. (U.S. Patent 6,944,594).

In regard to claim 2, Neuberger et al. disclose a plurality of applications (paragraph 0025) and do not describe any type of exit instructions to exit a previous application, however, Neuberger et al. do not specifically disclose the signal processor is configured to exit a previous application without receiving an exit instruction from a subscriber.

Busayapongchai et al. disclose a signal processor is configured to exit a previous application without receiving an exit instruction from a subscriber (the first application is suspended and exited to initiate the second application, column 6, lines 44-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Neuberger et al. to exit a previous application without receiving an

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exit instruction from a subscriber, because this would allow a user to open multiple applications at the same time, which allows a user to mix and match the functionalities of multiple applications according to a user's needs, as taught by Busayapongchai et al. (column 4, line 59 to column 5, line 4).

10. Claims 6, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neuberger et al., in view of Denenberg et al. (U.S. Patent 7,158,936).

In regard to claim 6, Neuberger et al. disclose a plurality of applications (paragraph 0025), wherein each application comprises at least one entry point which may be accessed by a corresponding token (Fig. 3, each application 112, 114, and 116, has a root level entry point from the main menu, paragraph 0026; additionally the composite grammar allows a user to access multiple entry points in each application, such as state 160, paragraph 0029).

Neuberger et al. do not disclose a plurality of application servers, wherein each application server is configured to execute at least one of the plurality of applications.

Denenberg et al. disclose a communications system for accessing voice applications wherein applications are hosted on separate application servers, wherein each server is configured to execute at least one of the plurality of applications (Fig. 1, application servers 14, column 2, line 61 to column 3, line 13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Neuberger et al. to host each application on a separate server, because this would allow each application to be separately updated/maintained without

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needing to take other applications offline. Additionally, this would allow independent application vendors to provide and maintain their own applications.

In regard to claims 9 and 10, Neuberger et al. do not disclose a mobile switching center or cell tower.

Denenberg et al. disclose a communications system for accessing voice applications wherein the user can access the voice pages through a mobile telephone 20 using cell tower 24 configured to generate an initial modulated signal in response to electromagnetic waves received via at least one antenna (column 2, line 61 to column 3, line 13). Furthermore, the mobile telephone system disclosed by Denenberg et al. connects to the PSTN, thus would inherently require the necessary mobile switching center configured to transmit the modulated signal to the telephony server required to interface with the PSTN.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Neuberger et al. to include a mobile switching center and cell tower, because this would allow a user to access the voice applications on a mobile phone from any location.

11. Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neuberger et al., in view of in Haenel et al., and further in view of Dressler et al. (*COTS SAR Processing Software*).

Neuberger et al. disclose providing a signal processing device, however Neuberger et al. and Haenel et al. do not specify how a signal processing device is provided.

Dressler et al. disclose basic engineering design principle that when developing a signal processor, one should acquire the signal processor if there is an existing processor that meets the design parameters, or build the processor if customization is needed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to obtain the at least one signal processing device if the signal processing device were available, because this would reduce development costs. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to build the signal processing device, because this would allow the signal processing device to be customized and optimized for the application.

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRIAN L. ALBERTALLI whose telephone number is (571)272-7616. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David R Hudspeth/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626

BLA 5/24/09